



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FCC TO IMPLEMENT MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Commission committed to mandatory electronic filing of applications for all international telecommunications services. Electronic filing has been the method of choice for many applicants since establishment of the Commission's internet-based filing systems more than six years ago. The transition to mandatory electronic filing will enable the Commission to further streamline its filing processes, reduce unnecessary costs associated with processing paper filings, and respond more efficiently to evolving user needs.

The Commission's action will build upon the proven value of the International Bureau Filing System (IBFS). The system, launched in 1999, provides an easy-to-use interface through which users can file a variety of international and satellite applications. IBFS was recently enhanced and, for select services, offers interactive filing processes that guide users through the requisite steps to submit documents. Similar processes for international telecommunications applications are possible as a result of today's decision.

The Commission's Report and Order applies to applications and associated filings in connection with: section 214 authorizations; cable landing licenses; accounting rate changes; assignment of data network identification codes; recognized operating agency status; assignment of an international signaling point code; and foreign carrier notifications.

The requirement for electronic filing will take effect in several phases. First, mandatory electronic filing of applications for international telecommunications services that can currently be filed via IBFS will take effect following a 60-day transition period that will begin this Spring. These include:

- applications for initial International Section 214 Authority
- assignments and transfers of existing International Section 214 Authority
- requests for Special Temporary Authority related to International Section 214 Authority
- applications for a new Submarine Cable Landing License
- new or modified international Accounting Rate Change filings

- requests for initial assignment of Data Network Identification Codes
- notifications of Foreign Carrier Affiliation
- requests for Recognized Operating Agency status
- request for initial assignment of an International Signaling Point Code

Next, in cases where electronic forms are not currently available, mandatory electronic filing will be phased-in as IBFS is enhanced to accept the filings. As each new electronic form is available, the International Bureau will release a public notice announcing the start of a 60-day transition period, after which only electronic filings will be accepted. Paper filings made after the close of the transition period will be returned to applicants without processing.

Action by the Commission April 29, 2005, by Report and Order (FCC-05-91). Chairman Martin, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Adelstein

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Docket 04-226

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